one year for obtaining a new phone connection. This calls for net addition of local switching capacity of around 10.60 lakh lines in rural areas and 48.40 lakh lines in urban areas.

Electronic Exchanges for Telephones

896. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities and rural units covered by electronic exchanges for telephones;

(b) whether there is any proposal to hand over telephone communication to private corporations; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) Out of a total of 14322 telephone exchanges as on 31.3.1990, 778 exchanges are of electronic type covering various cities and rural areas.

(b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to hand over telephone communication to private corporations. However, the Government has appointed a High Level Committee to suggest most appropriate organisational structure for the Telecom Department, keeping in view the operational and developmental needs and financial implications thereof etc.

(c) Does not arise.

Critical Analysis of the Working of C-DOT

897. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire special group trained at AT&T in USA has left the centre for development of telematics (C-DOT) and that the organisation continues to be plagued with manpower drain;

(b) whether any critical analysis of the working of the organisation has been made by Government;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) C-DOT has about 400 Engineers in the organisation. Out of these, 5 Engineers were trained in USA and 4 of them have left C-DOT on expiry of their service bond. However, other engineers have been assigned these jobs.

(b) to (d) A critical analysis of the C-DOT has been made by an Expert Committee appointed by Government. Report of the Committee is under examination.

Possession of nuclear bombs by Pakistan

898. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sometime in November last the U.S. Administration had informed the Government of India about the possession of seven nuclear bombs by Pakistan and its incorporation into their military strategy as a first strike weapon;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether, in view of the information given by the U.S. Government and considering the (i) overall change in the political scenario world over (ii) the policy of non-aligned becoming irrelevant and (iii) Pakistan's continuous aid to secessionist elements to destabilise the country, widening the gulf in the bilateral relations between the two countries, Government have considered the desirability of a shift in the nuclear policy to meet any eventuality; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Passports of Indians seized in Saudi Arabia

899. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that passports of Indians working in Saudi Arabia have been seized by the Government of that country in order to prevent them from leaving that country due to Gulf War; and

(b) the action taken by Government for the restoration of passports by the Saudi authorities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There is no report of the seizure of the passport of any Indian national by the Government of Saudi Arabia due to Gulf war.

(b) Does not arise.

Adnan Khashoggi's visit to India

900. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an arms dealer, Adnan Khashoggi, recently visited India;

(b) if so, what was the purpose of his visit;

(c) whether Khashoggi met the Prime Minister and offered his services to solve the Gulf problem;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Mr. Adnan Khashoggi, a Saudi national recently visited India. The visit was a private one.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

गंगा कार्यवाही योजना के अन्तर्गत कार्यक्रम

901. डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि गंगा कार्यवाही योजना के अन्तर्गत वाराणसी तथा इलाहाबाद में गंगा को प्रदूषण-रहित बनाने से संबंधित कार्यक्रमों में अब तक कितनी प्रगति हुई है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री, साथ में विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (डा. सुब्रह्मण्यन स्वामी) : गंगा कार्य योजना के अन्तर्गत वाराणसी तथा इलाहाबाद में गंगा को प्रदूषण रहित बनाने के लिए की गई, स्कीमवार प्रगति क्रमश: विवरण I एवं II में दी गई है ।